

# BUCKSKIN BULLETIN



Volume LVI - issue 4 - December 2019

## ...and a rip-roaring good time was had by all! Rendezvous and Gather October, 2019



Dr. Bonney MacDonald dances (boot-scoots) with Dr. "Bud" Charles Townsend to Bob Will's "San Antonio Rose" at the evening dinner at the recent Home Ranch's Rendezvous & Gather. Dr. Townsend, Professor Emeritus of History, West Texas A&M, renowned western story-teller, author and rodeo announcer for 50 years, stepped up at the last minute when our scheduled entertainment, Juni Fisher was grounded due to a closed airport.

Dr. Townsend shared many colorful and funny stories from his vast and amazing experiences.





WI Chairman, Bonney MacDonald  
Photo by Rik Anderson, WTAMU

### Chairman's Greeting

Greetings of the Season! We here at the Home Ranch hope that this finds your corrals and posses celebrating the holidays and keeping warm as the winter weather and shorter days take hold. The Home Ranch has had a little snow so far and – of course – lots of windy days. In this issue you'll find a report and lots of pictures from the September Gather in Canyon, Texas. In other Home Ranch news, you'll see that we have the next three years fall gathers lined out and will be meeting in Colorado Springs in 2020, Los Angeles in 2021, and Tucson in 2022. We are so grateful to these corrals and posses for hosting us and know that the gathers will be memorable! We hope you enjoy this issue, filled with lots of news from our members and we hope that you have a grand holiday season, a lovely Christmas, and a festive New Year!

Happy Trails!

Bonney



### DUES AND AWARDS PACKETS TO BE SENT EARLY FEBRUARY

**DUES DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2020**  
**AWARDS ENTRÉE DEADLINE APRIL 15**

Keepin' you informed: Corrals and posses will be receiving their dues and awards packets in February. We thank you in advance for sending in your dues so we can keep the awards going, the lights on, and the Bulletin coming your way – among many other things! And we encourage each of you to consider sending in entries for this year's award cycle. Remember the awards given out in 2020 are to be for publications, programs, etc, from 2019. Let us know what you've been up to!



All of us at the Home Ranch were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Peter Hassrick -- a long-time Sheriff of Pahaska Westerners, a superb and memorable scholar of Western Art, and the first-prize winner of this year's Founders Best Book Award. We send our condolences to Peter's family and to all in his beloved Pahaska Corral.

See more regarding Peter Hassrick on page 17.

### Inside this Issue:

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## Gather attendees visit the historic Adobe Walls Battle site



### ***A GRAND 2019 HOME RANCH GATHER!!***

We are still basking in the glow of friendship, fun, and learning from this last Gather. Approximately fifty people attended the Home Ranch Gather 2019 in Canyon, Texas and all seemed to enjoy themselves. After our mid-day Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, Oct 10, we all enjoyed a Welcome Reception and the Awards Ceremony, where we celebrated the many entrees of books, articles, poems, programs, and corral/posse outreach. (Please see the list of award winners elsewhere in the Bulletin.) Thursday night, we ventured out to the always fun restaurant, The Big Texan, where the truly brave can win a free 72-oz steak dinner – IF they can eat it all in an hour. We all refrained from that excess, but enjoyed steak and potatoes along with great company.

On Friday, we met on an uncharacteristically COLD day for Texas. The unseasonal arctic front dipped down right into the Panhandle for one day. At 7:30 am, we packed our breakfast burritos and boxed lunches into the caravanning cars and headed north to the unforgettable site of the Adobe Walls battlefield. Michael Grauer, McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in OKC, treated us all to a fabulous tour of the site. We trekked along the trails, viewed the Comanche and Kiowa grave memorial, the site where Billy Dixon made his famous shot, and Billy Dixon's grave. We at the Home Ranch are so grateful to Michael for his expertise and generosity; it was a wonderful and informative morning, and we thank you heartily!

Friday evening had a slight change in plans for our entertainment portion of the event. Our singer, Juni Fisher, had a flight to Amarillo booked from San Antonio; but because of ice-coated planes and runways, she was prevented from making the trip. We were able to book wonderful entertainment from Dr. Charles "Bud" Townsend, Professor Emeritus of Western History, legendary rodeo announcer, and award-winning biographer of Bob Wills. He gave a wonderful presentation on rodeo, and we had great Western Swing music from Denim Two along with our brisket-BBQ dinner. A memorable night!



Lower left, Bob Dewitt shares details of next year's Rendezvous & Gather to be hosted by the Pikes Peak Corral, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Top photo, members of the Westerners, International Board, from left standing, Wallace McKee, Sara McKee, Dr. J. Paul Matney, Jack Becker, Dr. Bonney MacDonald, Delinda King, Brian Dillon, Kent McInnis, Cheryl McInnis, Michael Grauer, kneeling- Ken Pirtle, Rodney Lauhban, Dr. Alex Hunt.

Center Photo, the three Dillon brothers Ross, Brian, and Dave representing the Los Angeles Corral, plus Bonney..

Michael Grauer tells the story of the Adobe Walls battle.

Lower right photo, Dr. Tim Bowman, WI President, addresses the general board meeting.

# Awards are handed out at the “Gather”




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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS!

The books, articles, programs, poems and general outreach done by Westerners corrals and posses were terrifically impressive. We are always so glad – and grateful! – to receive award entries every spring. The only downside is that there is always so much talent and only so many award spots.

Here are the awards given out this fall for work accomplished in 2018. Congratulations to all!

### *Co-Founders Award for Best Book*

#### **First Place**

Peter H. Hassrick, Pahaska Corral

Albert Bierstadt: *Witness to a Changing West* (University of Oklahoma Press)

#### **Second Place**

James E. Sherow, Kansas Corral

*The Chisholm Trail: Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble* (University of Oklahoma Press)

#### **Third Place**

Chuck Parsons, British Westerners

*Captain Jack Helm: A Victim of Texas Reconstruction Violence*  
(University of North Texas Press)




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### *“Coke” Wood Award for best article*

#### **First Place**

Brian Dervin Dillon, Los Angeles Corral

*“The Modoc War: Fact, Fiction, and Fraud”* published in Desert Tracks

#### **Second Place**

Janolyn G. Lo Vecchio, Adobe and Tucson Corrals

*“Owned and Operated by a Woman”: Mary Costigan and Flagstaff's First Radio Station,”* published in The Journal Arizona History

#### **Third Place**

Erik Berg, Scottsdale Corral

*“Equal For Age: The Growth, Death, and Rebirth of an Arizona Wine Industry, 1700-2000,”* in Journal of Arizona History

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### *Phillip A. Danielson Award for best presentation or program*

#### **First Place**

Los Angeles Corral James H. Macklin, Sheriff

For program by Paul McClure,

*“The Disappearing West: Just How Much ‘West’ is There in Country Western Dance?”*

#### **Second Place**

Fort Collins Westerners, Klaus and Marie Krizanovic, Co-Sheriffs

For program presented by Dave Lively, *“The Lost Lodges of Rocky”*

#### **Third Place**

Awarded to the Adobe Corral, Cynthia Rinehart, Sheriff

For program presented by Roger L. Nichol, *“Frontier and Western Vigilantes”*

*Heads Up Award for Larger Corral or Posse*

Tucson Corral, Elaine Jacobsen, Sheriff

*Heads Up Award for Smaller Corral or Posse*

Fort Worth Westerners, Robert Saul, Sheriff

*Fred Olds Award for Best Cowboy Poetry***First Place**

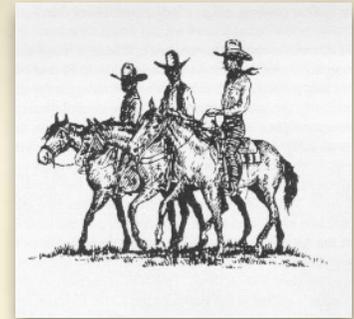
Abraham Hoffman, Los Angeles Corral

*"Tin Horn Gambler," "Lament of a Western Alcoholic," and "Dance-Hall Girls"* published in L.A. Corral Poetry Keepsake, Number 49**Second Place**

Gary Turner, Los Angeles Corral

*"Just Another Saturday Night," "Mississippi Yodeler," and "No Gold Creek"* published in LA Corral Poetry Keepsake, Number 49**Third place**

Bernice Landers, Jedediah Smith Corral

*"The Hat"***HONORARY AWARDS**

**Michael Grauer**, of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, was awarded for his long-time service to Westerners. His presentations during the 2018 and 2019 are treasured by many and his contributions to Western Art and Cowboy Culture continue to pay right and proper tribute to the history of the West.

**Ken Pirtle**, retired Professor and Professor Emeritus at Amarillo College, member of the Palo Duro Corral, and distinguished – and beloved! – Editor of the Buckskin Bulletin was awarded for his long-time service to Westerners. Without his artistic eye and his tireless efforts at assembling our wonderful quarterly news, we would not have this treasure! Thank you Ken for all you do.

We hope that you are all considering sending in nominations and entries this spring for the awards this fall of 2019. Remember that all entries are to reflect work published and work done in the 2019 year.

**Bonney MacDonald**

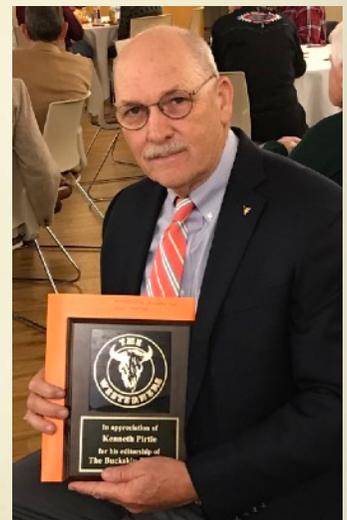
Chairman, Westerners



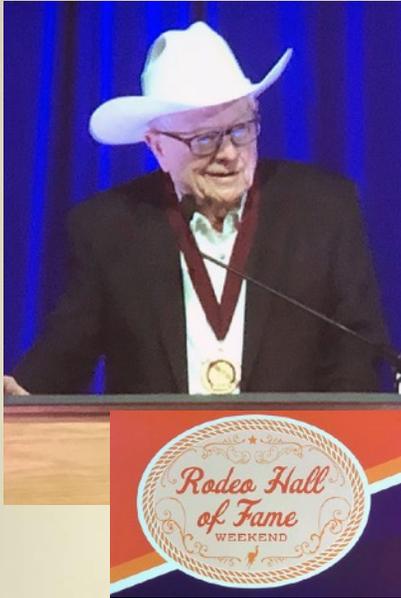
Brian Dervin Dillon, Los Angeles Corral



Fort Worth Westerners, Robert Saul &amp; Phil Williams



Kenneth Pirtle, Editor Buckskin Bulletin



Photos by Gregg Bynum

**Dr. Charles "Bud" Townsend** was born in November 1929 in Nocona, Texas. He began his rodeo announcing career at age 16. For the next 50 years he announced rodeos for Bobby Estes, Homer Todd, Cotton Rosser, Beutler Brothers, Everett Colborn, the Steiners, and Walt Alsbaugh. At Rodeo Cowboys Association (RCA) conventions he booked rodeos from Fort Worth, Texas, to Omak, Washington; Greeley, Colorado, to Belle Fourche, South Dakota; Ponca City, Oklahoma, to North Carolina; and into the Deep South.

Townsend received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and became a history professor, spending his summers announcing rodeos. He spent 27 years at West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas. "I owe a debt to rodeo I can never repay," he said. "Rodeo taught me how to teach students so they enjoyed learning." He was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, and received an American Cowboy Culture "Lifetime Achievement Award" and an "All-Around Cowboy" Award. He participated for years in the Cowboy Symposium at Lubbock, Texas.

Dr. Townsend received the 1975 Wrangler Book Award from the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum** for his book *San Antonio Rose: The Life and Music of Bob Wills*. He also won a Grammy award for his album notes to *Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys: For the Last Time*.

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM®  
The West Begins Here™ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



**National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and Rodeo Historical Society celebrate rodeo legends at annual Rodeo Hall of Fame Weekend  
Rodeo legends honored during prestigious weekend**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - Rodeo icons were recognized at the Rodeo Historical Society and National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's annual Rodeo Hall of Fame Weekend, November 8 - 9, 2019, with induction into the renowned Rodeo Hall of Fame. The Ben Johnson Memorial Award and Tad Lucas Memorial Award recipients were also honored. The celebration took place at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The Rodeo Hall of Fame Class of 2019 inductees include Wacey Cathey, Buck LeGrand (1931 - 1997), Gene O. "Buddy" Cockrell, Thomas Joseph "T.J." Walter (1949 - 2017), Lydia Moore, Frank Shepperson, Rob Smets and Jack Ward, and the Directors' Choice Award recipient is Dr. Charles "Bud" Townsend. The Tad Lucas Memorial Award recipient is Cindy Rosser, and the Ben Johnson Memorial Award recipient is Doug Clark.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



# September 10-12, 2020

Gather in Colorado Springs for the . . .  
**2020 Westerners International Conference**

Hosted by the:  
**Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners**  
 with support of the Denver Posse

Roundup at Hotel Eleganté



Singer &  
 Colorado author

Mix and mingle with fellow Westerners, authors and like minded history buffs from far and near

- ◆ Meet & Greet reception
- ◆ **Field trip to local sites**
- ◆ **Western dinner with live concert by acclaimed musician Jon Chandler at historic Al Kaly Mule Barn**
- ◆ Westerners Int'l award presentations
- ◆ Historical lectures
- ◆ **Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum tour**
- ◆ Banquet speaker: **John Fielder**  
 ⇒ Renowned Colorado photographer / author

- **À la Carte conference options available**
  - \* **Purchase the "package" or select piecemeal events**
  - \* **Guests are always welcome**



Extend your stay and enjoy local attractions



**Stay tuned for more details and pricing**

Contact info: **Bob DeWitt, Conference Chair**

**posse@dewittenterprises.com** or call (719) 473-0330

# CORRAL NEWS



## CALL FOR CORRAL AND POSSE UPDATES

Please send us your notices and announcements on upcoming or past corral and posse programs and events. We love to spread the good news to other corrals and posses about the activities of their fellow Westerners!

**Co-Sheriffs Klaus & Marie Krizanovic** report that the Fort Collins Corral meeting include a program on: "Pledging Brotherhood: An Introduction to Fraternal, Benevolent and Secret Societies", presented by Jen Baldwin. During the 1800's one of every seven people in the US were members of a fraternal society. Explore the various types of organizations, how they differ from each other and how to access their records for genealogical research. Jen Baldwin is an expert on genealogy and is a manager at "Findmypast".



**S.J. Dahlstrom** of the **Llano Estacado Corral**, Lubbock, Texas was recently recognized with the Will Rogers Medallion Award for his book **Black Rock Brothers** at the Stockyards in Fort Worth, Texas during the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering. Will Rogers was a respected writer and cowboy entertainer whose work embodied and demonstrated the traditions and values of the American cowboy. The Will Rogers Medallion Award was originally created to recognize quality works of cowboy poetry that honored the Will Rogers heritage, but has expanded to include other works of Western literature and film.

The **Pikes Peak Posse** of the Westerner's Monthly Historical November Presentation was "History of the Cripple Creek Mining District" by Steve Antonuccio. The meeting was held at the Colorado Springs Masonic Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Cripple Creek Mining area was the greatest gold camp in the United States. Steven Antonuccio shared obscure film clips from 1929 of the Midland Railroad traveling from Colorado Springs to Cripple Creek. Also clips from a 1966 interview at the Imperial Hotel of world-renowned journalist Lowell Thomas and Cripple Creek historians Marshall Sprague and Mabel Barbee Lee. Other film clips included a first-hand account by Lowell Thomas of Teddy Roosevelt's visit to the Cripple Creek Mining District.

Steve Antonuccio has enjoyed a 30-year career working in public and academic library.

The **Pikes Peak Posse** of the Westerners October meeting was "Gone and Mostly Forgotten" by Bob Easterly. The Posse met on October 14, The first burial ground in Gunnison, Colorado drifted into oblivion about 1884, where the earliest pioneers of that western slope community are buried. Gunnison native Bob Easterly has devoted the last three years searching the cemetery's history and who are the incumbents. Bob got interested in the subject when he learned that the cemetery was on a ranch that his grandfather Philip Easterly and father James Easterly owned back in the 1930s. That land is now part of the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport. There were no records kept when the ground was first being used for burial purposes from 1876 until 1883. It was abandoned in favor of a new cemetery west of Gunnison. In 1994 the original cemetery, named variously as Boulevard, was accidentally uncovered by an earth mover during a uranium mitigation project. After remediation in 1995, Boulevard once again slipped into oblivion.

**Klaus & Marie Krizanovic** shared that the October meeting of the **Fort Collins Corral** meeting was: "*Bent's Fort: The Adobe Castle on the Plains*," presented by John C. F. Luzader. 1846 saw amazing transitions in the American Fur Trade. In trading centers throughout the West the exchange medium went from beaver to buffalo. The adobe fort on the Arkansas River, first called Fort William, illustrated the importance of every member of the fort society. Meet the Chief Factor (reenactment) of Bent's Fort as he tells you of the fur trade on the Arkansas. For nearly forty years Mr. Luzader has been a participant, trainer, program assistant, planner and associate with Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. Within the National Park system, Mr. Luzader has worked in parks illustrating American military involvement covering the years of 1836 through 1900 as well as civilian and colonial settlement and daily life. He has specialized in the American Fur Trade.

## REMINDER TO ALL SHERIFFS!

**Sheriffs:** Please remember to forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to all of your corral or posse members. You'll continue to receive it in your email four times each year. Your members depend on you to send out the *Bulletin* so they can learn about all the exciting things other Westerners are doing. If you have any questions about this, just contact us at the Home Ranch and we will be glad to help!

**All Members:** Please be sure that your corral and posse sheriffs have your current email address so they can forward the *Buckskin Bulletin* to you! We want to be sure you're in the loop!

The *Buckskin Bulletin* comes out four times a year. It's emailed to all sheriffs so that they can email it to their posse or corral members. The current *Bulletin* is also always available on the front page of the Westerners website; back issues are accessible on the website through the *Buckskin Bulletin* link.

# CORRAL NEWS

## MORE CORRAL UPDATES

Good news from the **Kansas Corral!** They were proud to add four new members and we'd like to add our appreciation for their outreach. Please welcome the following members to Westerners International: Mary Cottom, Marcia Fox, Ramon Powers, and Ron Wilson!!

**Linda Cravens** of the **Scottsdale Corral** reports that, during the May 2019 meeting, Historian Heidi Osselaer gave a talk on the 1918 shootout at the Power family homestead near Klondyke, Arizona. She introduced her book, *Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight: Draft Resistance and Tragedy at the Power Cabin, 1918*. Prior to the publication of this book, Heidi Osselaer worked with Director Cameron Trejo to create a 2015 documentary, entitled "Power's War," which was released in 2015. The corral viewed the film in their September meeting, learning more about a historical shootout, as described in the film's introduction: "On the evening of February 9th, 1918 three local lawmen and one federal officer rode into the Arizona wilderness to apprehend four men. The events that followed has been so steeped in legend, lies, and hearsay, that the facts of what occurred at that remote cabin and why were almost lost to history." The film was a Grand Jury Prize Winner of the 2015 Anthem Film Festival; Best Documentary Film: 2015 Jerome Film and Music Festival; Logan Utah Film Festival; 2016 Best of the West Documentary Film for TrueWest Magazine, and the 2016 Gold Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

Also from the **Scottsdale Corral**: Their Oct 23 program was on "Mesa's Historic North Town Neighborhood on the Big Screen" and featured a documentary about one of the oldest African-American communities in Arizona. Known today as the Washington-Escobedo Park area, it was established in the early 1900s. North Town was home to most of Mesa's black families for decades. It featured community leaders such as Ms. Veora Johnson, who taught at the Booker T. Washington School and became its principal. The program was presented by documentary director, Mr. Bruce Nelson.

The **Scottsdale Corral** noted that, at their November meeting, their sheriff presented a baseball-themed talk. Jared Smith recounted that Arizona's baseball history connects not only deep into the 1800s but stretches across the United States. Arizona's pioneers laid the groundwork for baseball as early as the 1860s, and every town had their local "Nine" - not to mention all the barnstormers and groundbreaking teams like the Boston Bloomer Girls who toured the nation, playing through Arizona as they went. As these pioneers played ball, the west coast saw the emergence of what would eventually become the Cactus League, not long after provided a little sample of that story. Thank you **Linda Cravens** for keeping us up to date on your corral's exciting programs!

The **Northwest Montana Posse** held a meeting on October 21 at the Red Lion in Kalispell, Montana. They hosted a delicious dinner and offered a presentation on "F. H. Stoltze and His Land and Lumber Company" from posse member, **Ron Buenteemeier** of Columbia Falls, Montana. Thank you to **Ron Beard**, Sheriff of the NWMP for keeping us updated on your activities in the Northcountry!



**Nan Schubel** of the **Adobe Corral** reported on their July meeting. Ron Woggon presented a program on an old murder case from the 1860s. According to Mr. Woggon, the killing of Judge James C. Burnett (*photo left*) was a premeditated murder to gain control of land in the Arizona Territory. William Greene after losing a daughter in an accidental drowning used it as an excuse to kill his nemesis. He was acquitted at trial because none of the witnesses showed enough interest to testify. It was a miscarriage of justice in the wild west. The full version of the story will appear in the Journal of the Wild West History Association.

The **Adobe Corral's** August meeting featured two speakers from the Empire Ranch Foundation. Marty Maynard reported on the history of the ranch from the partnership of Walter Vail and Herbert Hislop in 1875 through changing ownership to today's conservation process. Bunker de France entertained members with the tales of the multitude of movies made there from the 1940s to present day, and he shared stories of working with the likes of Paul Newman, Lee Marvin, and Barbra Streisand.



**Nan Schubel** from the **Adobe Corral** further reported some exciting programs from the fall. In their October meeting they were delighted by a talk given by Stephen Hall, Curator of the History of Pharmacy Museum at the University of Arizona Pharmacy School. He shared the history of the collection that was started by Jesse Hurlbut and that had grown through collections from other locales, including Disneyland. Thank you, Nan Schubel, for keeping the Home Ranch informed of your programs!



*Embire Ranch*

The **Pahaska Corral** reported on a successful October meeting when they had more than fifty members and guests. They had a memorable presentation from Park County Archivist Brian Beauvais on the life and art of Olive Fell, who was a long-time resident of Cody and lived at the Four Bear Ranch. Brian revealed there was much more to her art than the popular kitschy tourist cards and cutesy bears she was known for. Members were asked to show up in their favorite hats and all joined in for the fun. Thank you Sheriff **Richard "Dakota Slim"** for the update!

**Sara McKee** of the **Llano Estacado Corral**, Lubbock, Texas, shared a fascinating letter dated 1993 written by historian **William C. Griggs**. It explained how the Corral began in 1968. He named the charter members (the ones he could recall) and listed the Range Rules. At that time the Llano Estacado Corral was a male only group that began every meeting with a fair amount of shared scotch and whiskey. Griggs recollected several memorable programs. After retiring and moving to Canyon, Texas he assisted in getting the **Palo Duro Corral** underway in 1975.

# CORRAL NEWS



Photos by Rodney Lauhban

Seated, Mike Harter. Left to right, Rodney Lauhban, Jack Williams, Joe Faulkenberry, Ed Benz, Bill Fabian (Sheriff), Lenny Sadler, Doug Phillips, Stan Cosby, Terry Stevens, Cathy Lozano, Barry Stevens, Susie Wheeler, Dale Williams (Deputy Sheriff).

Members of the **Palo Duro Corral**, Amarillo, TX are pictured on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon at the ranch of Jack Williams. The gathering was the September 2019 meeting of the corral.

*The wire drift fence, of long ago,  
Now encloses fields and lanes,  
The cattle trails, tho trodden no more,  
Are blown by the winds and the rains.  
And the stars come out to shine so bright;  
The farmers' lights begin to burn;  
The old mill mourns to the breeze of the  
night,  
As its old wheel creaks, and rattles, and  
turns.  
And like our friends, we soon shall go,  
For we cannot keep apace with time;  
We belong to those of the long ago,  
And not of the modern line.  
Tho fortune may drive me—the Lord  
knows where—  
I shall always remember and love  
The charm of the West with its fresh air  
And its star-studded heavens above*

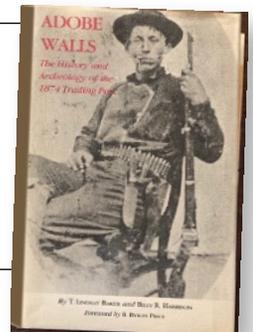
After a camp cookout, Stan Cosby used the inspiration of a nearby landmark windmill as the topic of his presentation. C. N. Cosby's first volume of poems, **WINDS OF THE WEST**, was the focus of the program. This book, by Stan's grandfather, was published in 1926. Stan concluded by reading "The Lone Mill" which he says, "really describes the fading of the Old West."

The **Pikes Peak Posse's** October meeting featured a program titled "Gone and Mostly Forgotten" by Bob Easterly. The first burial ground in Gunnison, Colorado drifted into oblivion about 1884, where the earliest pioneers of that western slope community are buried. Gunnison native Bob Easterly has devoted the last three years searching the cemetery's history and who are the incumbents. Bob got interested in the subject when he learned that the cemetery was on a ranch that his grandfather Philip Easterly and father James Easterly owned back in the 1930s. That land is now part of the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport. There were no records kept when the ground was first being used for burial purposes from 1876 until 1883. It was abandoned in favor of a new cemetery west of Gunnison.

**Bob DeWitt** of the **Pikes Peak Posse** reports that their December gathering included a presentation on the History of Toys by Susan Fletcher. What did Santa bring you for Christmas when you were growing up? Each of the toys and games that you played with when you were little has a story to tell about the history of American childhood and play. A stuffed elephant from the Steiff company offers us insight into childhood in early Colorado Springs. The board game Candyland has its origins in the dreaded polio epidemic of 1950s. Construction toys like Erector Set highlight the importance of preparing children for future careers in engineering and architecture. During this program historian Susan Fletcher will talk about some of this country's most beloved toys and games, and discuss what they tell us about the larger story of the history of childhood. Several of the toys have Christmas connections, making this presentation perfect for the holiday season. Susan is writing a book about historic toys and games (1840-2000), which will release in 2020.

**Dorothy Jones Oksner** of the **Santa Barbara Corral** recently shared the story that her grandfather's brother, John Thomson Jones, was killed at Adobe Walls by Indians. His death is written about in **T. Lindsay Baker's** book **Adobe Walls, the History and Archeology of the 1874 Trading Post**. John Thomson Jones's photograph is on the front cover of the book. He was a buffalo hidesman fresh from London, England. His body was never found because of a heavy rain storm washed his and his buddy's (Blue Billy) bodies away. The description of their bodies when they were first found is pretty gruesome.

Right, the book's cover.





John Scott McMurtry was born June 12, 1891 in Archer County, Texas. His ancestors, three brothers and a sister, came from Dundee, Scotland in 1715. Family historian Merle McMurtry states, "The people that left Scotland for the United States were dissatisfied, or dissidents objecting to authority. This shows in our family as stubbornness, outspokenly authoritative, or meaner than hell." Though a later letter assures there was "lots of Victorian influence on this family, good mores and manners." Many members of the family drifted west and into the cattle business. There were McMurtrys in Texas by the late 1800's.

One of twelve children, Johnny was riding horses by the time he was four and breaking them by age fifteen. He began his work as a cowboy in Donley County in 1910, after riding a little bay horse called "Snap-shot" from Archer County to the High Plains." He went to Briscoe County to work on the Matador Ranch in 1913, and, at only 26, to Bailey County in 1917 where he bought out the 69 Ranch using his own brand, the triangle. He leased the Janes ranch in 1940 and, for a time, operated the Janes and Triangle, successfully establishing a breed of pure white Hereford cattle.

Johnny had his share of financial ups and downs. He drove a truck for some time from Amarillo to Tulia around 1926. The Merle McMurtry letters recalled that Johnny's truck door let frigid air come in and the daily exposure to winter winds he endured while driving caused Johnny to have trouble with his left hip from then on. Merle details Johnny's Depression Era financial troubles by saying Johnny got down to \$25 in capital and lived above a filling station in Muleshoe.

He and Roy sold the Triangle Ranch in 1943 but bought it back later after the current owners had let a windmill fail and a hundred cattle die from lack of water. Johnny was well-known for his good heart and had "lots of friends everywhere he had ever been."

Johnny married in 1955 at the age of 64. In an early 1970's, Ida McMurtry Barnett was interviewed by Magann Reynolds of Channel 6 in Muleshoe. Ms. Barnett relates a tale worthy of Western romances. She and Johnny met when she was 15 and working cattle with her father. After working all day, she bathed and donned a "well-fitting" dress. She must have cleaned up right well, because when Johnny saw the young woman he had previously considered a scrubby little kid, he told Ida's father that he would be back to get her when she grew up. Before he had the chance, Ms. Barnett met and married Arline Givens, with whom she had two sons. Some time after Mr. Givens died, Ida ran into Johnny again at a Matador Ranch reunion and he started writing to her. The aging bachelor kept his word and married the now grown woman. Rumor has it, the day after they were married they spent eleven hours on horseback.

At the time of the interview, Ms. Barnett says she missed ranch life, gives details of the unusual 3-level home, and shares memories of the Buffalo BBQ's she and Johnny would give when living at the Janes Ranch.

Johnny's health began to break early. Throughout his career, one leg was broken almost a dozen times. He developed cancer of the throat and had "his voice box removed." He and Ida then went to New York City for five weeks where Johnny learned to speak by "swallowing air." For the rest of his life, Ida accompanied Johnny everywhere to help translate and take care of ranch business.

Soon after that recovery, he got out to shut a gate and his own pickup ran over him, crushing a hip and leg. Later, he and Ida were in a car accident in which they sustained many broken bones. Shortly after that a load of cattle feed fell on him breaking his leg again. A short while after that Johnny learned he had colon cancer. He died three years later owning, "several thousand acres, several hundred cows, and a Cadillac." Whether in good health or bad, financial success or downturns, *Early Bailey County History* remembered, "Every cattleman in West Texas knows that Johnny McMurtry runs good cattle." Joe Heflin Smith wrote an article for the March 1952 edition of *The Cattlemen*, and the title of his article declares, "McMurtry Means Beef"

Author Larry McMurtry calls Johnny his favorite uncle. The author mentions his uncle in several of his works; however, the most well-known tales of his uncle Johnny are in the essay "Take My Saddle from the Wall." The essay describes family reunions, some of his Uncle Johnny's

accomplishments, the large Janes Ranch house, which he describes as "a three-story edifice reminiscent of the house in Giant," Johnny's mishaps, and his temper. He ends the essay with a description of Johnny McMurtry's last reunion. The reunion was attended by "tired and dyspeptic McMurtrys who managed to drag themselves to the plains that day." In a somber and loving tone, McMurtry writes:

*"Uncle Johnny, all day, was in very great pain . . . only the talk and the sight of the children seemed to lift him above it . . . Uncle Johnny reached for his white Stetson and put it on and all of the brothers and sisters rose to help him down the gentle slope to the Cadillac. Most of the women were weeping . . . [he kissed his sisters goodbye]. Though he was seventy-five and dying there was yet something boyish about him . . . He stood in the frame that had always contained him, the great circular frame of the plains, with the wind blowing the grey hair at his temples . . . he smiled at the children . . . he gave them the look of a man who saw life to the last as a youth sees it, and who sees in any youth all that he himself had been. The family stood awkwardly around . . . to them he had always been the darling, young Adonis, and most of them would never see him alive again."*

Even though I was born and raised in Muleshoe I was a little young to meet Mr. McMurtry. I've heard things about him though, even a few things that were not particularly flattering. Yet, obviously many people loved him.

I suppose you could say that about the American West. Though its history is a little rough around the edges, sports some bad habits, and hasn't always been fair to all its inhabitants, it is still a history and a place that warms the hearts of people the world over. It is part of this country that has added much in the way of beauty, spirit, and even wealth to the nation.

My son often said a few words that drove me crazy when he used them to let me know he was no longer going to argue a point on which we disagreed - "it is what it is." But sometimes they just fit. Johnny McMurtry just was the man he was, but for some the good outweighed the bad and they rejoiced in what they loved. In the same way, we can recognize the wrong that was done in the West, but still delight in the amazing spirit of life that moved civilized people to settle across what was perceived as an uncivilized country.

A hearty thanks to Westerners International - striving to keep that history alive while identifying the wrongs and celebrating those things which are an everlasting blessing.

Delinda King





by Jim Jennings, Palo Duro Corral Amarillo, Texas

*Jim Jennings grew up in Sweetwater, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University. Jim and his wife Mavis reside in Amarillo, Texas. He is a member of the Palo Duro Corral and serves the Corral as Keeper of the Chips. Jim is a renowned western writer and a long-time western historian. Jim is retired as Executive Director of Publications for the American Quarter Horse Association and continues to write and is currently writing the scripts for Red Steagall's television show "Somewhere West of Wall Street."*

## The outlaw *Jesse James*

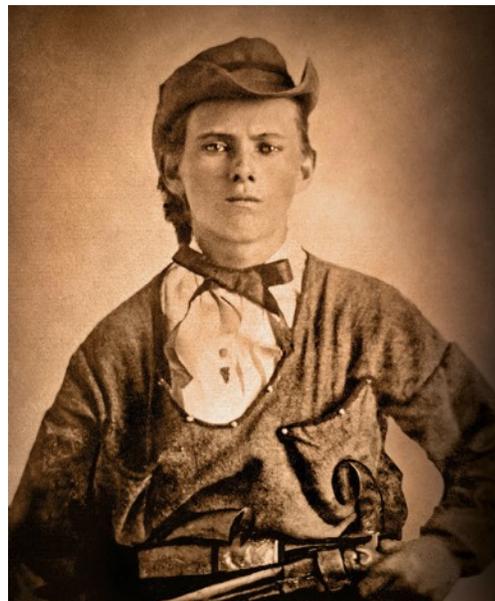
Jesse James is arguably the most famous outlaw that emerged in what we call the Old West, that period between the Civil War and about 1895. Jesse was born in Clay County, Missouri, near what is today the town of Kearney, on September 5, 1847. Missouri, at that time, shared characteristics of both North and South, but 75 percent of the state's population was from the South or another border state, and that especially held true with Clay County. It, in particular, was strongly influenced by the Southern culture of its rural pioneer families. Many of the families there had slaves. As a matter of fact, the county had more slaveholders and more slaves than most other regions of the state. As a result, the area became known as Little Dixie.

Jesse's father, Robert, was a farmer, raising commercial hemp, which was used in rope making. The large ropes were used along the Missouri River to tie up the steamboats as they docked. But Robert was also a Baptist minister, and he helped found William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. In the late 1840s, Robert felt called to go to the California gold fields, both as a prospector and to minister to the spiritual needs of the miners. However, he died of cholera while in California. Jesse was only three years old.

After Robert's death, Jesse's mother, Zerelda, in 1852, married Benjamin Simms. But Simms died not long after their marriage, and in 1855, she married Dr. Reuben Samuel, who moved into the James family home. From Zerelda's first husband, Jesse had an older brother, Frank, and a younger sister, Susan, but Zerelda and Dr. Samuel had four more children together.

When the Civil War broke out, Missouri was divided, with some of its citizens siding with the North and some with the South. Guerrilla warfare gripped the state, and atrocities were committed by both sides. Confederate guerrillas murdered civilian Unionists and executed prisoners. The Union presence enforced martial law with raids on homes, arrests of civilians, summary executions, and banishment of Confederate sympathizers from the state.

Due to their southern heritage, the James/Samuel family sided with the Confederates at the outbreak of war. Jesse's older brother Frank joined a local Confederate army company and fought at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in August 1861. In early 1863, Frank joined Confederate guerrilla commander William Clarke Quantrill, who became famous for terrorizing both Union civilians and soldiers. Later that year, a Union militia company raided the James/Samuel farm looking for Frank's group. They tortured Dr. Reuben Samuel by



repeatedly jerking him into the air with a rope hanging from a tree limb, and a trooper grabbed a pregnant Zerelda and slammed her into a wall. When they found Jesse in a field working a team, they beat him unconscious with bayonets and plow lines.

That was all it took. Soon, 17-year-old Jesse joined his brother, first in a guerilla squad commanded by Fletch Taylor, one of Quantrill's lieutenants. When Taylor was severely wounded, he and Frank joined another guerilla group led by William "Bloody Bill" Anderson, who was the most feared of all the guerilla leaders. When Anderson was killed, Jesse followed one of Anderson's lieutenants, Archie Clement.

During the war, Jesse received two severe chest wounds, but recovered from both. He recovered from the second one at his uncle's boardinghouse in Harlem, Missouri, where he was tended to by his first cousin, Zerelda "Zee" Mimms. She, of course, had been named after Jesse's mother. That began a nine-year courtship, which ended with the two of them getting married.

When the war was over, Missouri remained deeply divided. Anti-slavery Unionists, who were members of the Republican Party, passed a new state constitution that freed Missouri's slaves. It also temporarily excluded former Confederates from voting, serving on juries, becoming corporate officers, or preaching from church pulpits. Also, unlike soldiers in the regular Confederate army, pardons did not apply to ex-guerrillas. As a result, there were widespread clashes between veterans from both sides of the war.

Jesse's former commander, Archie Clement, kept his bushwhacker gang together and began to harass Republican authorities. They were the likely culprits in the first daylight armed bank robbery in the United States during peacetime, the robbery of the Clay County Savings Association in the town of Liberty, Missouri, on February 13, 1866. During the gang's escape from the town, an innocent bystander, a student at William Jewell College, was shot dead on the street. Although positive identification was not made, it is likely the James brothers were in on the robbery, and there is some speculation that they were the leaders.

More robberies followed, and after state militia killed Clement, some of his gang stayed together and continued to rob banks. That

continued

included Frank and Jesse James. On May 23, 1867, the gang robbed a bank in Richmond, Missouri, in which they killed the mayor and two others. An eyewitness who knew the brothers recognized Jesse and Frank James among the robbers. Then, in 1868, Frank and Jesse joined Cole Younger in robbing a bank in Russellville, Kentucky. Younger had been a member of Quantrill's group with Frank, and had joined the James brothers when they went with Bloody Bill Anderson.

Jesse did not become well-known until December 7, 1869, when he and Frank robbed the Daviess County Savings Association in Gallatin, Missouri. Jesse is believed to have shot and killed the cashier, Captain John Sheets, because he thought he was Samuel P. Cox, the militia officer who had killed Bloody Bill Anderson during the Civil War. Jesse claimed he was taking revenge, and the daring escape he and Frank made through the middle of a posse shortly afterward attracted newspaper coverage for the first time.

Meanwhile, the James brothers joined with Cole Younger and his brothers John, Jim, and Bob, as well as Clell Miller and other former Confederates, to form what became known as the James/Younger Gang. With Jesse as the most public face of the group, the gang carried out a string of robberies from Iowa to Texas, and from Kansas to West Virginia. They robbed banks, stagecoaches and a fair in Kansas City, often carrying out their crimes in front of crowds, and even hamming it up for the bystanders.

On July 21, 1873, they turned to train robbery, derailing a Rock Island Line train west of Adair, Iowa, and stealing approximately \$3,000, which would be about \$61,000 today. In their train robberies, they held up passengers only twice, choosing instead to take only the contents of the express safe in the baggage car. John Newman Edwards, who was editor and founder of the Kansas City Times, was a former Confederate cavalryman, and he made sure to highlight the fact that passengers were not bothered when creating an image of Jesse as a kind of Robin Hood. However, despite public sentiment toward the gang's crimes, there is no evidence that the James gang ever shared any of the robbery money outside their personal circle.

This sentiment of supporting the James brothers was strengthened even more in 1875. The Pinkerton National Detective Agency had been involved in the hunt for the James/Younger gang since 1871. A couple of Pinkerton agents were killed in their pursuit of the gang, and then Allan Pinkerton, the agency's founder and leader, took on the case as a personal vendetta. He began to work with former Unionists who lived near the James family farm, and on the night of January 25, 1875, he staged a raid on the homestead. Detectives threw into the house an incendiary device that exploded, killing Jesse's young half-brother Archie and blowing off one of Zerelda Samuel's arms.

Many residents were outraged by the raid on the family home, and the Missouri state legislature almost passed a bill that would have praised the James and Younger brothers and offered them amnesty.

Also in 1874, Jesse and his cousin Zee married on April 24. They had two children who survived to adulthood: Jesse Edward James, who was born in 1875, and Mary Susan James, who was born in 1879.

On September 7, 1876, the James/Younger gang attempted a raid on the First National Bank of Northfield, Minnesota. The robbery quickly went wrong, however, and after the robbery, only Frank and Jesse James remained alive and free.

The gang attempted to rob the bank in Northfield at about 2 p.m. Three men entered the bank, two guarded the door outside, and three remained near a bridge across an adjacent square. The robbers inside the bank were stopped short when acting cashier Joseph Lee Heywood refused to open the safe, telling the robbers that it was secured by a

time lock. It wasn't, but Heywood stayed with his story even after they cracked his skull with a pistol butt. Meanwhile, the citizens of Northfield grew suspicious of the men guarding the door and raised the alarm. The five bandits outside fired into the air to clear the streets, driving the townspeople to take cover and fire back from protected positions. They killed two bandits and wounded more in the barrage. Inside, the outlaws turned to escape, and one of them shot cashier Heywood in the head.

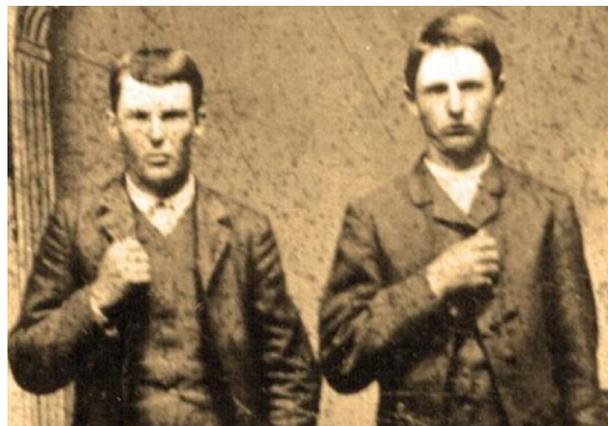
The gang barely escaped Northfield, leaving two dead companions behind. The James brothers split from the others and escaped to Missouri, but in the massive manhunt that followed the robbery, the militia soon discovered the Youngers and one other bandit, Charlie Pitts. In a gunfight, Pitts died and the Youngers were taken prisoner. Except for Frank and Jesse, the James/Younger Gang was destroyed. Although there was \$15,000 in the bank, the robbers got away with only \$26.

Later in 1876, Jesse and Frank surfaced in the Nashville, Tennessee, area, where Jesse changed his name to Thomas Howard and Frank became B. J. Woodson. Frank seemed to settle down, but Jesse remained restless. He recruited a new gang in 1879 and returned to crime. But the new gang was not made up of battle-hardened guerrillas; they soon turned against each other or were captured.

By 1881, with local Tennessee authorities growing suspicious, the brothers returned to Missouri, where they felt safer. Jesse moved his family to St. Joseph, Missouri, in November 1881, not far from where he had been born and reared. Frank, however, decided to move to safer territory and headed east to settle in Virginia. They intended to give up crime.

With his gang nearly annihilated, Jesse trusted only the Ford brothers, Charley and Robert, and for protection, he asked them to move in with him and his family. But by that time, Bob Ford had conducted secret negotiations with Missouri Governor Thomas T. Crittenden, and was planning to bring in Jesse. On April 3, 1882, after eating breakfast, the Fords and Jesse went into the living room. Jesse noticed a dusty picture above the mantle. He walked across the room, laid his revolvers on a sofa, and then stepped up on a chair to clean the picture. As he stood there, wiping away the dust, Robert Ford drew his weapon and shot Jesse in the back of the head, killing him instantly.

It's been more than 135 years since Jesse was killed, but yet his legend is probably as strong today as it ever was.



*Jesse and his brother Frank*



# in memory

*of our Westerner friends*



**Peter H. Hassrick** (Pahaska Corral) was the Center of the West's Director Emeritus, having led this institution from 1976 to 1996, and the Whitney Western Art Museum's Senior Scholar. How lucky the Center of the West was that he decided to "retire" here in 2011, although for Peter, retirement looked a bit different than it does for most; he worked longer hours than many paid staff and was never without an exciting project. In addition to his work at the Center of the West, Peter was the Curator of Collections at the AmonCarter Museum, the founding director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the founding director of the Charles M. Russell Center for Western Art Studies at the University of Oklahoma, and the director of the Petrie Institute of Western Art at the Denver Art Museum. As the long-time Sheriff of the Pahaska Corral of Westerners, he entertained the posse with witty newsletters, sprinkled with his sly sense of humor. Peter was a world traveler and a lover of the outdoors, and as an avid hiker, logged many miles on trails across the globe, from Cody to Scotland and beyond, with his wife Elizabeth Drake "Buzzy".



**Joseph Nick Harris** (Ft. Collins Corral) 76, of Fort Collins died November 22, 2019. He was born in Pueblo, the only child of Joseph Nicholas and Mary (Senatore) Harris. He was educated in Pueblo public schools. He received a B.A. and Masters from Colorado State University. In 1971 he married the love of his life, Judy (Schehrer) Harris who predeceased him. Mr. Harris was a beloved world language teacher in the Poudre School District for 33 years. He served as coordinator of foreign language, and was instrumental in creating the Harris Bilingual School, where he served as the first principal. He was a past president of the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers, and actively involved in Alliance Francaise for a long period of time. He was a world traveler. He was a member of St. John XXIII Catholic Church for 40 years and St. Joseph Catholic Church the past six years.



**Jack Dean Williams**, (Palo Duro Corral) 79, of Amarillo, formerly of Plainview, Texas passed away on November 20, 2019. Jack was born on March 3, 1940 in Plainview, Texas. Jack grew up singing and playing instruments with an obvious talent. He continued his education at West Texas State University, where he majored in music education. After receiving his degree, he taught band and orchestra for 25 years in the Amarillo and Claude District a. During his final year at WT, he met and married the love of his life and his wife of 55 years. Jack also farmed and raised cattle southeast of Amarillo. Jack annually hosted The Palo Duro Corral at his ranch on the edge of Palo Duro Canyon in September for a range cooked meal and story telling. (See Corral News on pg. 7) He was a CBer, an avid bowler, a background singer for Red Steagall, a lover of classic cars and a member of Polk Street United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, Maggie; his sons Danny and Matthew Williams, their families and thousands of beloved music students and colleagues.

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*coming soon: Western Belt buckles with WI logo!*



lapel pin



past sheriff's bin bin



bolo tie



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white v-neck



Westerner cap

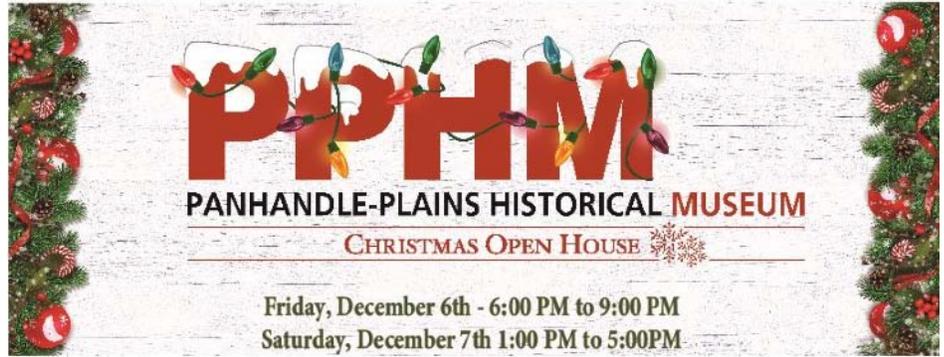


Polo shirt



white bandana

### Upcoming Events at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas



The Panhandle Plains Historical Museum will be bustling with Christmas activity as role players in Pioneer town invite you step in and step back to Christmas in the 1890s. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Christmas Open House ready to take requests from children who visit them in their sleigh in the snowy woods of Hazlewood Lecture Hall. In the basement, children can make holiday crafts in the craft corner. In the Petroleum Theater, storytellers will weave Christmas stories in a cozy living room setting with a crackling fire while songs by children’s choirs and entertainers fill the rest of the museum with music from the Derrick Room.

The event is free of charge. Suggested admission is one can of food per person to benefit the High Plains Food Bank. PPHM’s Christmas Open House began collecting donations for the food drive four years ago and is now one of the area’s largest food drives.



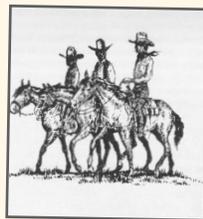
The H.D. Bugbee Gallery in the PPHM showcases a rotation of 1,000 works by Bugbee.



#### Spring 2020 Events

- Thursday, Feb. 13—Brownbag Colloquium with Dr. Bonnie Roos, 12:30-1:15 p.m., room TBD
- February 20-22: Southern Plains Conference
- (tentative) Thursday, March 26—Nall lecture (Q&A: 3 p.m.; lecture: 7 p.m., Hazlewood Room)

The Home Ranch is proud of its affiliation with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas. PPHM is the largest historical museum in Texas. For current and upcoming exhibitions, lectures, and special events please check the museum’s web page at: <http://www.panhandleplains.org>



“The PPHM is my single favorite museum and has been a huge source of inspiration to me as a historian. Touring it is an amazing learning experience. For almost 20 years now I have been recommending the place to travelers. You can do whatever you like, I tell them, but don’t miss the PPHM!”

- S. C. Gwynne



# BOOK & PUBLICATION NEWS

## OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



**The Mojave Road in 1863: The Pioneering Photographs of Rudolph D'Heureuse, Accompanied by Contemporary Accounts.** Edited by Jeff Lapidés with a Foreword by Dennis G. Casebier. Tales of the Mojave Road, No. 30, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Essex, California, 2018. \$39.95

This is a splendid book, full of remarkable photographs, accompanied by contemporary accounts of the 1863 travels of Rudolph d'Heureuse (1823-1896), the earliest-known photographer of what has come to be called the Mojave Road. Historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists "in the know" have long been familiar with some of d'Heureuse's photographs, but now, every last exposure surviving from his journey from Los Angeles eastwards to Fort Mojave and to the Eldorado Gold fields of the Colorado River country, has been assembled between two covers.

This new, beautifully-produced, large-format book reflects very well upon the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners, since its compiler, editor, and designer Jeff Lapidés, the writer of its Foreword Dennis Casebier, and its pre-print production boss Charles Allen, are all L.A. Corral members. And this wonderful contribution to California history and historical photography is dedicated to our friend, historian, mountaineer, prolific author, and fellow Los Angeles Westerner, the late, great, John Robinson.

The photographs and accompanying text represent moments frozen in time, and it is very easy to get lost in them. They feature miners, prospectors, local Indians from different tribes, and soldiers. Newspaper accounts, letters, and eyewitness observations chronologically bracket d'Heureuse's 1863 visit. Some are earlier, some are contemporaneous, and some are later, but all expand our view of the time and place revealed by unique photographs of a California historical episode too often overlooked by mainstream historians. Author/Editor Jeff Lapidés also provides useful maps by d'Heureuse himself, locating the photographs and text accounts. A brief biography of the photographer, a summary of the detective work involved in tracing his exposures, the unusual "life stories" of some of them over the past 150+ years, and a bibliography round out this very readable book.

D'Heureuse's photographic accomplishments were a sideline to his primary objective in California's Colorado Desert: prospecting, surveying, and mapping the latest gold "strike" in the southeastern-most corner of the Golden State. No mere tourist, Rudolph d'Heureuse was a trained engineer who had already paid his dues in both placer and in hard rock mining. So it is not surprising that his experienced, analytical, gold-seeker's eye composed so many photographs that reveal so much detail. D'Heureuse later worked for the California Geological Survey, rubbing elbows with pioneer scientists like Josiah Whitney before finally leaving California for the more verdant, but much less exciting, Eastern Seaboard.

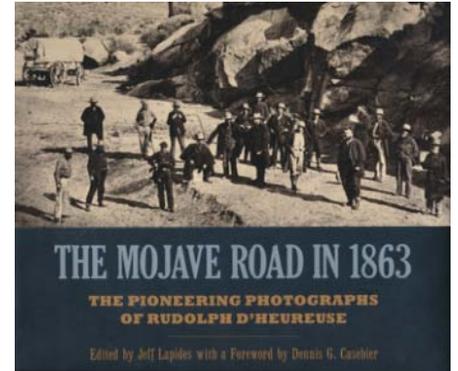
An old prehistoric Indian footpath across the desert eventually, by the early 1850s, became a mule path, and then, by 1863, the most important wagon road between Los Angeles out on the Pacific Coast and Fort Mojave on the Colorado River. This lonely military outpost was the gateway to the wide-open spaces of the Sonora Desert, both in Mexico to the southeast, and Arizona to the northeast, and to the basin and range country of Nevada and Utah to the north. The rutted, sandy and rocky thoroughfare came to be called the Mojave Road, after the most famous group of Indians that lived near its eastern terminus. Most of the early Anglo-American travelers of the Mojave Road were as unfamiliar, and unconcerned, about geographic and ethnographic accuracy as most modern California residents still are. In fact, ask any ten present-day Californians where the Mojave Desert begins and ends, and you will probably get ten completely different answers, at least nine of them wrong. The Mojave Indians, after whom the Mojave (or "High") Desert is named, didn't live there. Instead, they lived, along with their neighbors the Chemehuevi and Halchidhoma, in the Colorado (or "Low") Desert, on the California side of the Colorado River.

So the Mojave Indians had no villages, hunting camps, nor any permanent or semi-permanent presence within their namesake "Desert" far to the west of their actual homeland. But they nevertheless installed plenty of footprints on and across the Mojave Desert proper, for they were perhaps the most remarkable, energetic, and peripatetic pedestrians of Native California and, for that matter, the greater American Southwest. At the turn of the 19th Century, forty years after d'Heureuse's visit, the Mojave were favorite subjects of study for A.L. Kroeber, the founding father of California Anthropology. Another seventy years later I heard the old anthropological joke still being told at U.C. Berkeley in Kroeber Hall that any Mojave Indian would run twenty miles just to look at a rock out in the Desert, and then run another twenty miles back, forty miles in all, on a whim, before breakfast.

Pre- and Protohistoric Mojave Indian traders routinely walked all the way from the Colorado River to the Pacific Coast to trade obsidian, soapstone, and other scarce and valuable lithic materials with the coastal Indians, in exchange for marine shells, shell beads, and other things that were equally rare back in the desert hinterland. In the opposite direction, the Mojave crossed the Colorado River and ventured into what are now Northern Mexico and Arizona, trading Coastal California shells and shell beads with the Anasazi, the Late Prehistoric ancestors of the Protohistoric Hopi and Zuni, for turquoise. They also traded with less sedentary tribes in the Sonoran Desert, for tunas at the time of the cactus fruit harvest. So it was not surprising that the Mojave Indians later served as guides across the California, Arizona, and Sonoran deserts for the first European explorers like Fray Francisco Garcés (1738-1781) – he called them the Jamajabs – and the first Anglo-American mountain men like Jedediah Smith (1799-1831) to penetrate Spanish Colonial, later Mexican, California overland from the east.

One of the most important contributions of Lapidés' beautiful book may not be obvious to some readers. It suggests most strongly that elsewhere, most likely inside old trunks, half-remembered safety-deposit boxes, or even within that most clichéd of all treasure-containers – the old shoe box up in the corner of the attic – other collections of 150-year-old photographs or glass plate negatives still await rediscovery and publication. For every Timothy O'Sullivan, Eadweard Muybridge, Isaiah Taber or Carleton Watkins, all of them famous photographers of a now-vanished California, there may have been another dozen obscure ones like Rudolph d'Heureuse, talented amateurs who photographically recorded people and places before anyone else did. And, when and if the collections of such photographic recorders are found, we hope that they can be shared with an appreciative audience as skillfully and artistically as Jeff Lapidés has with the impressive legacy of Rudolph d'Heureuse.

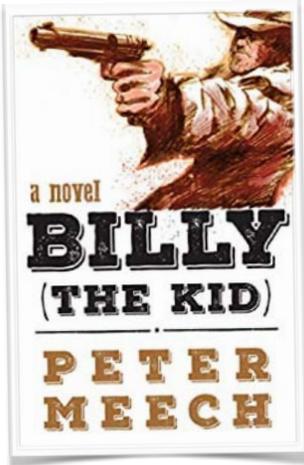
The Mojave Road in 1863 reminds us that people long dead can indeed come back to life through the magic of photography and the written word. This is a book that should be on every Westerner's shelf, and in every western library. Highly recommended.



Reviewed by Brian Dervin Dillon, Ph.D.

# BOOK NEWS

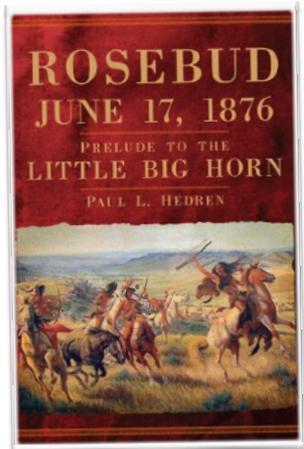
OF INTEREST TO WESTERNERS



## A Novel **Billy (The Kid)** by Peter Meech

Pueblo, Colorado, 1932. Bootleggers thrive in a town where the sheriff is on the take and you can kill a man with impunity. In this thrilling narrative, a once-famous outlaw finds himself thrust into the middle of a bootleg war against his will. At stake is nothing less than the life of his best friend and his last chance at true love with the town beauty. But is the legendary gunman who he claims to be, or is he just a retired dentist with a vivid imagination? In this remarkable first novel, Peter Meech reimagines the figure of Billy the Kid in a story told with verve and humor. Visually magnificent, and brimming with small-town charm, *Billy (the Kid)* builds to a climax that is as powerful as it is unexpected.

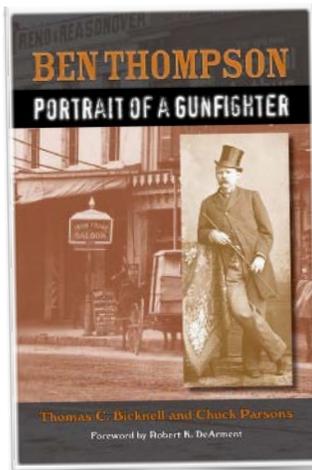
\$23.00 available February 20, 2020 at: <https://www.amazon.com/Billy-Kid-Novel-Peter-Meech>



## **Rosebud, June 17, 1876: Prelude to the Little Big Horn** by Paul L. Hedren | Apr 11, 2019

The Battle of the Rosebud may well be the largest Indian battle ever fought in the American West. The monumental clash on June 17, 1876, along Rosebud Creek in southeastern Montana pitted George Crook and his Shoshone and Crow allies against Sioux and Northern Cheyennes under Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. It set the stage for the battle that occurred eight days later when, just twenty-five miles away, George Armstrong Custer blundered into the very same village that had outmatched Crook. Historian Paul L. Hedren presents the definitive account of this critical battle, from its antecedents in the Sioux campaign to its historic consequences.

\$31.45 <https://www.amazon.com/Rosebud-June-17-1876>



## **Ben Thompson - Portrait of a Gunfighter** By Thomas C. Bicknell and Chuck Parsons

PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESS

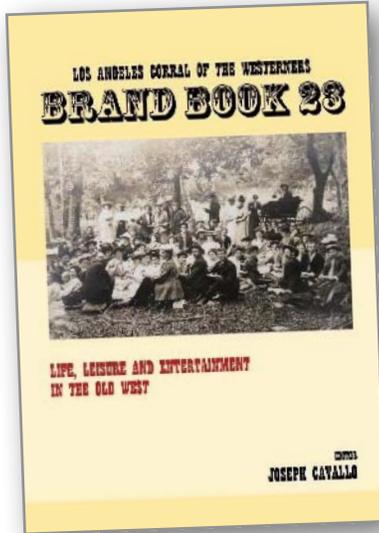
Ben Thompson was a remarkable man, and few Texans can claim to have crowded more excitement, danger, drama, and tragedy into their lives than he did. He was an Indian fighter, Texas Ranger, Confederate cavalryman, mercenary for a foreign emperor, hired gun for a railroad, an elected lawman, professional gambler, and the victor of numerous gunfights.

As a leading member of the Wild West's sporting element, Ben Thompson spent most of his life moving in the unsavory underbelly of the West: saloons, dance-houses, billiard halls, bordellos, and gambling dens. During these travels many of the Wild West's most famous icons—Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson, Wild Bill Hickok, John Wesley Hardin, John Ringo, and Buffalo Bill Cody—became acquainted with Ben Thompson. Some of these men called him a friend; others considered him a deadly enemy.

In life and in death no one ever doubted Ben Thompson's courage; one Texas newspaperman asserted he was "perfectly fearless, a perfect lion in nature when aroused." This willingness to trust his life to his expertise with a pistol placed Thompson prominently among the western frontier's most flamboyant breed of men: gunfighters.

\$34.95 <https://www.tamupress.com/book/9781574417302/ben-thompson/>

If you've read a particularly fascinating book that you think might be of interest to other Westerners, please share it with your Buckskin Bulletin inkslinger at: [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) so I can add it to the Book News section of the next BB.



## Coming Soon from the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners!

### Brand Book 23: *Life, Leisure and Entertainment in the Old West*

The Los Angeles Corral has published 22 Brand Books since its founding in 1946. Now, after a long hiatus, its newest offering will soon be available. The theme of Brand Book 23, edited by former Los Angeles Corral Sheriff Joseph Cavallo, is *Entertainment in the Old West*. It contains ten outstanding chapters, all by leading authors from the Los Angeles Corral. Topics range from life and leisure, to music, to early motor sports, to the beginnings of the movie industry, to the earliest museums in the west, and more.

Brand Book 23 is a collector's item. Printed on fine paper, it is attractively bound in dual color cotton cloth, gold and black foil stamped, with photographic end papers, and is covered by a beautiful dust jacket. The edition is limited to 350 copies. Price: \$60. (Los Angeles Corral Member's price: \$40.) Distribution is expected in February 2020.

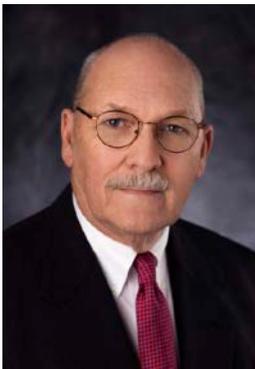
Please send pre-publication orders, including your own return mailing address, to: PO Box 1891, San Gabriel, CA 91778, checks payable to *Westerners, Los Angeles Corral*, including a shipping charge of \$5 for the first copy and \$2 for each additional copy for USA mailings. Questions? Please select the *Contact* tab at [www.lawesterners.org](http://www.lawesterners.org) or call Sheriff Jim Macklin at (626) 233-2579 or Editor Joseph Cavallo at (626) 372-5126.



#### Upcoming Los Angeles Corral Events

January 8, 2020 - Mark Mutz  
Stories: the Myths, the Facts, the Realities

February 11, 2020 - Randy King  
Wild West Gunslingers: Short Biographies of various gunmen, lawmen, feuds, and their outcomes



**Greetings** from your **Buckskin Bulletin** editor, Kenneth Pirtle. It is with pride that I put together these newsletters four times a year for **Westerners International**. I regularly check my email for Corral updates and news to include in the "**BB**" and share with our membership. Please share your **WI** news and activities to me at [kenneth.pirtle@me.com](mailto:kenneth.pirtle@me.com) or the Home Ranch at [westerners@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:westerners@mail.wtamu.edu) so I can include it in the upcoming issue.

The digital **Buckskin Bulletin** (PDF) is now sent to your Sheriff or Corral representative from the Home Ranch. The Home Ranch is dependent on current email addresses and we ask that you keep your Corral information updated. Hopefully the **Buckskin Bulletin** is getting distributed among your local membership. I would humbly request that you read your "**BB**" and share it when you have the opportunity. Happy Trails, KP